

American actress and producer, Carmen Zapata, along with Cuban-born actress and director, Margarita Galban, and Argentinean designer, Estela Scarlata, BFA has grown from a small, itinerant bilingual theater to a permanent cultural institution that utilizes the arts as a tool for exploration and understanding of the Latino community.

On the evening of May 22, 1997, Chairman Jesus Rangel, joined by Cochair Enrique "Henry" Baray, Douglas M. West, and Latin Heat's Bel Hernandez and Loyda Ramos, will join BFA's supporters in honoring the outstanding contributions of women at the 17th annual El Angel Awards ceremony. Receiving the El Angel Corporate Award will be the Coca Cola Co. and Kraft General Foods, for their support of Latino arts. Muralist Judy Baca and actress/comedian Liz Torres will receive the El Angel Artist Award, for their outstanding and innovative contributions to the arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts for its unyielding commitment to promoting the arts in the Latino community, and to join me in congratulating 1997's El Angel Award recipients. I proudly, in recognition of BFA's contributions to our community for nearly a quarter of a century, declare May 22, 1997, to be Bilingual Foundation of the Arts Day in my congressional district.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, due to the cancellation of my flight to Washington, I missed rollcall Votes Nos. 139, 140, and 141. Had I been present I would have voted aye on rollcall Nos. 139, 140 and 141.

"MY GOOD FRIEND, THE
PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN"

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I had the opportunity to visit Taiwan and I became an admirer of President Lee Teng-hui. He was graceful, charismatic, knowledgeable, and visionary as well. He deeply impressed me with his firm grasp of world events as he articulated his vision of a modern Taiwan that is economically prosperous, politically free, and internationally respected.

President Lee has certainly maintained Taiwan's spectacular economic growth. Politically he has introduced many reforms, including the upcoming debate on Taiwan's constitution. In terms of achieving greater international recognition for Taiwan, I have learned that Foreign Minister John Chang is succeeding in making the world see the injustices of excluding Taiwan, a major economic power, from many important international organizations. As for Taiwan's relationship with the United States, Taiwan certainly has many friends on Capitol Hill due to the efforts of Ambassador Jason Hu and his staff.

Congratulations to my good friend, the President of Taiwan, on the occasion of his first anniversary of his first elected term of office. He will always have my support and best wishes.

A TRIBUTE TO THE WEST ST. LOUIS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce on the event of its 40th anniversary. This chamber has faithfully served the cities of Ballwin, Clarkson Valley, Ellisville, Manchester, Valley Park, Wildwood, Winchester, and parts of unincorporated St. Louis County, MO.

Established on May 13, 1957, as the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the chamber was founded to enrich the communities of the West St. Louis County corridor. At its first meeting held in the basement of Ballwin Elementary School, the chamber dedicated itself to improving the quality of education, highways, and sewer systems. From these humble beginnings, the West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce has grown into one of the most dynamic and progressive chambers in this region. With 385 members and 601 representatives, the chamber continues to advance commercial, industrial, and civic interest, as well as enhancing the community environment within cities and unincorporated areas.

The West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce currently is involved in numerous activities including: monitoring local, State, and Federal legislative issues of specific interest to business; maintaining a proactive status to improve transportation facilities and services; publishing an annual "Buyer's Guide and Membership Directory" which is distributed to 50,000 residents; soliciting of new businesses and residents to the area; acts as a clearinghouse for information for prospective new businesses; and offers its members opportunities for networking, advertising, education, and referrals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating the membership of the West St. Louis County Chamber of Commerce on this occasion. I am confident that the chamber will continue to lead the West St. Louis County corridor well into the next millennium.

AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is most appropriate that on the eve of his retirement that I rise in tribute to the chairman and chief executive officer of General Public Utilities, Inc., Mr. James R. Leva.

Jim Leva is a true American success story and how he achieved that success defines what it is to be a good civic and corporate citizen—hard work, determination, commitment to

community, excellence in all efforts, and loyalty and love for family.

A 1950 graduate of Boonton High School and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Mr. Leva joined Jersey Central in 1952 as a utility worker and progressed to first-class lineman in 1954. He worked for 4 years as night troubleman while attending Fairleigh Dickinson University as a full-time day student in electrical engineering. At the same time, he was beginning his life with his wife, Marie Marinaro of Morristown, and raising their five children.

Mr. Leva graduated from the university magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1960. The same year he advanced to cadet engineer in the utility's central division engineering department and was promoted to assistant engineer the following year. His rise continued—from personnel assistant in 1962, assistant manager-employee relations in 1963, manager-employee relations in 1968, vice president personnel, safety and services in 1969 and vice president consumer affairs in 1979.

In 1980, Mr. Leva obtained his juris doctorate from Seton Hall Law School and was admitted to the New Jersey Bar the same year.

In January 1992, he was elected president and chief executive officer of General Public Utilities Corp., the forerunner of GPU, Inc., and assumed the additional position of chairman in June 1992. He is also chairman of GPU Nuclear, Inc., and chairman and chief executive officer of all other major GPU companies.

And, while all this hard work was accomplished, Jim Leva never forgot his commitment to the county and State in which he lived. Mr. Leva has been active in local public affairs for many years. He served as a member of the Morris Township Board of Education, the Morris Township Committee, and was the township's police commissioner. He also served two terms as mayor of Morris Township.

Jim Leva has had an even broader sense of community than the county in which he lives. Among his other contributions, Mr. Leva is a director of the Utilities Mutual Insurance Co., New Jersey Utilities Association, Edison Electric Institute, and New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce. He was national chairman of the 1996 U.S. Savings Bond campaign, chairman of the board of trustees of St. Clare's-Riverside Foundation, and chairman of the joint advisory board of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy of Rutgers University. He is also a member of the board of trustees of Fairleigh Dickinson University and the TriCounty Scholarship Fund and a member of the board of directors of Prosperity New Jersey, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, this Friday, May 23, many people will gather to pay tribute to Jim Leva for his many achievements and leadership of GPU as well as his countless contributions to a better New Jersey. They will come from all walks of life—from the lineman to the government official, from business leaders to community volunteers to say thank you. We say thank you Jim for a job well done and thank you for serving as an example to us all. We are most grateful for your service and we wish you and your family many happy and well-deserved years of retirement.